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In March 1997 Christchurch hosted the first National Community Board Conference at which 214 delegates representing 91 Community Boards attended. Also in attendance were Councillors and Council staff representatives.

The Conference was deemed to be a success and at the conclusion of the proceedings it was resolved that this event should be held at least once during each three year term of Local Government. Four Local Authorities submitted bids to hold the next Conference with Taupo District Council being the successful contender.

Taupo District Council has now advised that the 1999 Conference will be held in that city from 27-30 May next and that the programme will be both interesting and informative, with time allowed for workshop sessions where issues of all types can be discussed in depth providing an opportunity for delegates to learn and contribute to the effectiveness of Community Boards throughout the country. With Christchurch the inaugural host of this event and being recognised for the successful way in which its Community Boards have worked together with Council for the benefit of the city it would seem important that Boards, Councillors and Officers are represented at Taupo in May.

In considering Community Board representation the Council has a limited budget available for Community Board conferences and travel, which would only be sufficient to support one representative from each Christchurch Community Board. Should Boards wish to send more than one delegate the issue of the extra cost incurred would likely require the use of Board discretionary funds and this in turn would need to be considered against other demands, including community expectations, relating to Board discretionary funding allocations.

While final costs, as yet, are not available the Taupo District Council have advised that the following would be indicative of the basic costs per delegate:

<i>Registration</i>	\$290
<i>Accommodation</i>	240 (3 nights)
<i>Air Travel</i>	450 (return)
<i>Total</i>	\$1,010

Conclusion

Given the contribution that the Community Boards of Christchurch have made to Local Government in New Zealand and the fact that this Conference was initiated by Christchurch Boards it would be appropriate for each Board to be represented in Taupo. The number of delegates from each Board would be governed by available finance and this is a matter for individual Board consideration.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board support representation at the National Conference in Taupo.
 2. That a representative be appointed from this Board.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That three non-councillor representatives be appointed from this Board and that Councillors interested in attending make application via the usual channels.